

our blessed hope

"looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." titus 2:13

the other day i heard someone refer to us pre-trib believers as a rapture cult. i readily admit to being a part of it, but i deny it is a homage of rapture but of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. certainly we all look forward to escaping the wrath of God that must be spent on evil, but much more than that, we all long to see our Lord. isn't that what it should be like for everyone. He is that pearl we all seek.

i know dark times have existed from the fall of man, and each generation enduring such times since our Lord's first coming must have been assured their "tribulating" time period was surely a pretext to His second coming. so exactly what differentiates our time from their's.

i have only one word to say - convergence. our time is having such a cluster of events happening simultaneously that only a willingly blind person could deny their significance. i'm not just considering the rebirth of israel, but all the signs active in the heavens, the earth and the geopolitical doctrines now trying to be implemented. between rampant lawlessness, self-deception, ufo's, artificial intelligence and everything else, i'm not sure the human race could continue much longer and still be considered "God's creation." it is becoming man's recreation. and now they are talking of depopulation as they prize the earth above the lives of it's inhabitants.

even the prophet daniel was able to discern from the scriptures when the time in babylon was complete. "in the first year of his reign i, daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." dan 9:2

likewise, we should be able to determine from scripture that His arrival is imminent. "after two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight." hos 6:2 remember also this is the first year of a shemitah cycle and as if to top it all off, a jubilee year to boot. like it or not, God's appointed feast times were established in the torah of scripture. these are not just jewish feast days. they are God's feasts and to be honored by christians.

i don't believe in imminency the same way as a lot of christendom does; they believe He can come at any time. just as His first coming fulfilled an "appointed time" (a set feast), i believe His second coming will be a fulfillment of a "set time" as well. certainly in our eagerness and longing we have looked to dates that have come and gone without a fulfillment, but hope has not vanished with them.

we are told: "for the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." hab 2:3

Jesus and rescue is our blessed hope but i don't think it will be what everyone expects. it won't be the "socialism" kind of heaven everyone envisions now. there will be a bride and then there will be guests at the wedding feast. there will be rewards and regrets, rank and order maintained, with Jesus being the head of all. equity, all being equal, is man's vision of nirvana, not God's. i will not, nor would expect to stand in the same place of honor as abraham, moses, or other of the greats.

that's not to negate the joy, pleasure and magnificence of eternity with the Creator and if that's all you want or expect, you will be most satisfied. me, i want to stand as close to my Lord as i can get. i want to know that intimacy that is implied by the joining of marriage; the two becoming one. "'for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.'" this is a great mystery, but i speak concerning Christ and the church." eph 5:31-32

all of christendom and their denominations have varying beliefs; doctrines and traditions. none of us has it all right, just a fragment of the whole truth. i'm not really sure even the apostles knew it all. though they just wrote under the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit, i believe some truths were hidden from them as well. God reserved what He wanted until revelation time arrives. do you think there would have been an exuberance to spread the gospel if people knew it would be two thousand years before His return? a sense of urgency needed to prevail.

now there is a real reason to feel the urgency. i can honestly say i have never before seen so many filled with so much hope of a rapture this year; and yes, possibly this month. what if you knew there was a rapture and that it would be this very year? "what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" 2 pet 3:11 so, "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." matt 5:16

yes, we have a hope. a blessed hope. right now it is causes many to almost salivate at the possibility of an impending rapture time. hope is something no one can take from you. it can only be relinquished. but what does our God tell us? "hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." rom 5:5